TRANSFORMING CHURCHES, TRANSFORMING LIVES
Southeast Conference UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

Wednesday, 12 Oct 2011

News

Breaking News
Feature Focus
Celebrate
Conference News
Local Church News
Lifting Up...
NEWS Archives
SEC News Resources

SECUCC eNewsletter

Sign up for SECUCC Email Newsletter
GO

Southeast Conference FAQ's

Who is the SEC?
Who is the UCC?
How Do I Find a UCC Church?
What Ministries are Available?
Is Training Available?

YOU ARE HERE: HOME ▸ BREAKING NEWS

No Pardon for Troy Davis

The decision of the State of Georgia Board of Paroles and Pardons announced on Tuesday to allow the execution of **Troy Davis** to proceed is not a decision that advances justice in this great state, but is an echo of another and more troubled time in race relations. In the face of considerable doubt about the veracity of the testimony of witnesses, the absence of physical evidence, the Board has not brought about a just conclusion to the murder of Officer McPhail, but added to one grave injustice another.

Georgia executed Troy Davis on Wednesday night for the murder of an off-duty police officer, a crime he denied committing right to the end as supporters around the world mourned and declared that an innocent man was put to death. Read more.

The Southeast Conference and the United Church of Christ stand in this hour with the millions who have prayed, signed petitions, and marched for justice for Troy Davis, including particularly his family and loved ones. We are proud of our churches and clergy who have continued our long tradition of fighting for justice, and we lift up with gratitude the witness of Dr. Marvin Morgan of First Congregational UCC, Atlanta, Dr. Kenneth L. Samuel of Victory for the World UCC, Stone Mountain, Rev. Joyce Myers-Brown of Central Congregational UCC, Atlanta, Rev. Chris Lyman-Waldron of Praxis UCC, Atlanta, and many others who have sought to be a light of hope in these shadowed and troubling times. May Christ grant us all strength for this journey.

Link here to read more information on how the UCC has been involved.

Marvin Morgan of First Congregational UCC, Atlanta, chained himself to a flag pole near the state capital and began a hunger strike in protest. This same local minister renewed an offer to die in place of Troy Davis.

In a letter mailed to members of the Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles, Marvin L. Morgan, pastor with the United Church of Christ, wrote:

> ***"Because there remains 'reasonable doubt'; in fact, because there remains overwhelming doubt that Mr. Troy Davis is the one who murdered Officer Mark MacPhail … I, Marvin L. Morgan, do hereby request that you authorize the state of Georgia to take my life instead of that of Troy Davis and allow Troy to be set free. I am available immediately to be taken into custody so this request may be implemented."***
> A PDF of the entire letter here.

A complete article appeared in Creative Loafing Atlanta on September 17. Link here to read "I am willing to die for Troy Davis."

for Troy Davis.

The Southeast Conference and the United Church of Christ are proud of our churches and clergy who have continued our long tradition of fighting for justice. The ones listed in this article are just a few of those who stepped forward in the name of justice. Kathy Clark and Joyce Hollyday represented the Conference at the vigil on the 21st the evening of Troy Davis' execution, at the prison in Jackson, and Chris Lyman-Waldron of Praxis UCC organized a response from his congregation. The national staff of the UCC was represented by Sala Nolan of Justice and Witness Ministries.

A synopsis comes to us from Joyce Hollyday on the events leading up to the execution and beyond.

> ***Amazing Grace***
>
> *I had to serpentine my way around a row of massive concrete barricades on Sunday morning, September 25, to get to the prison that houses Georgia's death row. Four days before, this line of defense was upstaged by an army of prison guards, sheriff's deputies, state troopers, and riot police wearing blackened face shields and bearing high-powered rifles. A helicopter hovered overhead, and throughout the evening, police cruisers roared past the crowd, their lights flashing and sirens blaring. In all my years, I'd never seen such a massive display of force.*
> Link here to read Joyce's complete article.

The SEC and UCC Respond as Hundreds of Homes are Destroyed in Waves of Severe Weather

This is an Alert on How You May Assist in This Time of Need

Devastating storms Wednesday spawned deadly tornadoes that moved across

Mississippi, Georgia and Alabama. The purpose of this email is to alert you to the ways in which you and your congregation may respond to this catastrophe and to let you know how the **Southeast Conference** is responding. Currently, UCC churches across the Southeast Conference are providing immediate relief in their communities to those in need of food and water.

AFP/Getty Images - Jessica McGowan

The **United Church of Christ's Disaster Ministries** anticipates participating in an ecumenical effort to assist people to repair and rebuild homes.

Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal declared four northwestern counties disaster areas after storms and tornadoes blew through the area. Governors of Mississippi and Alabama also declared disaster areas, emergency management officials said.

In Alabama, the National Guard dispatched hundreds of personnel to some of the state's hardest hit areas. President Barack Obama announced late Wednesday he approved Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley's request for emergency federal assistance, including search and rescue support.

"While we may not know the extent of the damage for days, we will continue to monitor these severe storms across the country and stand ready to continue to help the people across the southeast and all citizens affected by these storms," Obama said in a statement. Most of the 154 tornado sightings reported to the Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Oklahoma, were from Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, and Tennessee, AccuWeather.com reported.

From Tim Downs - Here is What is Currently Happening:

1. The **United Church of Christ** has launched an emergency appeal to the entire church, and it is posted on **www.ucc.org**.

2. I have appointed **Angie Wright and LeNard Brown** to be our coordinators in response to this disaster, and I am working with our colleague in the national offices to get them the credentials they need to have access to the sites of damage.

3. Gifts are Being Given via Congregations in "Special Offerings."
If you wish to send contributions through the **Southeast Conference** we will also accept checks made out to "Southeast Conference UCC", and note in the memo **"OGHS Alabama Tornado Relief."** You may donate online at the SEC by clicking button to the right.

4. Through **One Great Hour of Sharing** the SEC has already requested a $2000 grant in aid to each of our churches which have members that have incurred losses in the tornadoes.

OGHS Alabama Tornado Relief

5. Online Donations are Being Made.
Make a secure online donation to the **OGHS International Disaster Relief Fund**. Mark the gift being made for **"OGHS Tornado Relief."**

6. Clean Up and Hygiene Kits are Being Donated.
Support of this program helps to ensure kits are available for immediate response after a disaster in another part of the world and here in the United States. For more information on kits follow link to **Church World Service** organization.

Our SECUCC Members:
A number of you have asked what impact the tornadoes have had on our churches and their membership. This is what I know:

> Two families in Beloved Community UCC, Birmingham have lost their homes.
> Two families of Trinity Congregational UCC, Athens, AL have had significant damage, one family lost their home and car, and another lost the roof on their house.
> One member of United Church Huntsville had a tree go through her roof. The church is mobilizing to help secure her house and prevent further damage.
> Two families of Church of the Savior UCC, Knoxville sustained damage to homes.

***Please Pray** for people who live in communities affected by tornadoes. Feel free to be in touch with me for any further information or details.*

Thank you for your compassion and support.

Timothy C. Downs

Conference Minister

Southeast Conference UCC
1330 West Peachtree Street, Suite 350
Atlanta, GA 30309
(404) 607-1993 Ext. 1
www.secucc.org

Latest News

Feature Focus - September 2011
A Word From Tim Downs - September 2011
News From Our Local Churches - September
Conference News - September
Lifting Up . . . September 2011

SECUCC CONTACTS

- Conference Minister
- TAP Director
- SEC Donations
- Church Development
- Communications Director

SECUCC RESOURCES

- Annual Meeting
- Global Theological Education
- Local Church News
- SEC Churches
- Seminars/Webinars

FAVORITE LINKS

- Bridge 4 Faith
- The Center for Progressive Renewal
- United Church of Christ
- Mission Insite
- Resource Center

EVENTS CALENDAR

« < **October 2011** > »

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

Steps to Planting a New Church News Contact Us Donate

Copyright © 2011 SECUCC Web Site. Designed by WeDesignWebs.com